



WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Chairman Coleman
Chairman Sharkey
Members of the Planning & Development Committee

February 23, 2009

RE: HB 5871 - AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISPOSITION OF POSSESSIONS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS OF EVICTED TENANTS.

Dear Chairman Coleman and Chairman Sharkey, and members of the Planning and Development Committee,

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in support of legislation regarding **the disposition of possessions and personal effects of evicted tenants** outlined in HB 5871.

Many of our member towns have been burdened both financially and administratively by the state mandate regarding tenant evictions. The proposed language in HB 5871 that removes the onus from the Towns is welcome relief by our municipalities, and we encourage its approval. A 2006 report (# 2006-R-0164) by the Office of Legislature Research indicated that of 37 states researched, **Connecticut is the only state that mandates that municipalities remove and store the possessions of evicted tenants.** In other states, landlords or sheriffs have the responsibility.

Thank you for your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director, WINCOG

cc: WINCOG Board of Directors